

State mask bans face federal civil rights inquiries

By COLLIN BINKLEY

The Education Department on Monday opened civil rights investigations into five Republican-led states that have banned or limited mask requirements in schools, saying the policies could amount to discrimination against students with disabilities or health conditions.

The department's Office for Civil Rights announced the investigations in letters to education chiefs in Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah. Those states have issued varying prohibitions on universal mask requirements, which the office says could prevent some students from safely attending school.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona accused

the states of "putting politics over the health and education of the students they took an oath to serve." "The department will fight to protect every student's right to access in-person learning safely," he said in a statement. It marks a sharp escalation in the Biden administration's battle with Republican states that say mask-wearing should be a personal choice. President Joe Biden last week asked Cardona to explore possible legal action, prompting the department to examine whether the policies could amount to civil rights violations.

The states under investigation have adopted a range of policies that outlaw or curb mask mandates.

Continued on next page



Education Secretary Miguel Cardona speaks to press after a visit to P.S. 5 Port Morris, a Bronx elementary school, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021 in New York.

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Continued from Front

A state law in Iowa forbids school boards and other local officials from mandating mask wearing. In Tennessee, mask mandates are permitted, but a recent executive order from Gov. Bill Lee allows families to opt out of school mask requirements.

Those policies conflict with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which recommends universal mask wearing for students and teachers in the classroom. The CDC issued the guidance in light of the rapid spread of the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19.

In announcing the investigations, the department said it will examine whether mask-mandate bans violate a federal law protecting students with disabili-



Olympia resident and state employee William Baker along with concerned citizens gather outside the Capitol to protest Gov. Jay Inslee's vaccine mandate for state workers, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021 in Olympia, Wash.

Associated Press

ties. Under that law, students with disabilities must be given access to a "free appropriate public education" alongside their peers without disabilities.

States that forbid mask mandates could be preventing schools from taking

necessary steps to protect students with disabilities or underlying health conditions, the department said. In its letters, the department said it's concerned that the states "may be preventing schools from making individualized assessments

about mask use so that students with disabilities can attend school and participate in school activities in person."

Education Department investigations often end with voluntary agreements that remedy the alleged violation. But if the inquiries determine that states violated civil rights laws, the agency could issue sanctions as severe as a loss of federal education funding.

The inquiries were launched at the department's discretion and not in response to complaints from parents. But Cardona said he has heard from families who are concerned that state mask policies could put their children at risk.

Some governors quickly denounced the investigations.

"Until every American citizen is safely out of Afghanistan, President Biden shouldn't spend a single second harassing states like Oklahoma for protecting parents' rights to make health decisions for their kids," said Carly Atchison, a spokesperson for Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt.

But Oklahoma's education chief, who has said mask mandates should be an option, appeared to share the Education Department's concerns. In a statement, State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister said the state "is preventing schools from fulfilling their legal duty to protect and provide all students the opportunity to learn more safely in-person."

In South Carolina, the state's top education official has similarly clashed with the governor over mask policies. Superintendent Molly Spearman has "repeatedly implored" lawmakers to reconsider their ban on mask mandates, according to a Monday statement from the state education agency.

The agency said it is "particularly sensitive to the law's effect on South Carolina's most vulnerable students and is acutely aware of the difficult decisions many families are facing concerning a return to in-person instruction."

Some other states previously outlawed mask mandates, but the policies were overturned by courts or are not being enforced, including in Florida, Texas, Arkansas and Arizona. The Education Department has not opened investigations in those states but said it is watching closely and is prepared to take action.

Masks have emerged as a major source of contention as the nation's schools start a new school year during a surge in COVID-19 cases. Although most states let schools decide their own policies, some have taken firm stances for or against mandates.

States including California, New York and Louisiana have issued statewide mask requirements inside schools, while Texas, Florida and others moved to prevent schools from requiring masks.

In Florida, which had taken one of the toughest stances against mask mandates, a judge ruled Friday that schools are legally allowed to require masks. The judge overturned an order from Gov. Ron DeSantis that had barred such mandates, ruling that it was unconstitutional and cannot be enforced.

Other states opposing mask mandates face similar legal challenges. In South Carolina, the American Civil Liberties Union last week filed a federal lawsuit over the state's policy forbidding mask mandates. The suit, filed on behalf of parents and disability rights groups, argues that the ban excludes vulnerable students from public schools. □

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RFK's oldest son condemns possible parole of Sirhan Sirhan

BOSTON (AP) — Former congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II, the oldest son of Robert F. Kennedy, denounced the possible parole of the man convicted of killing his father in California in 1968.

"Two commissioners of the 18-member California Parole Board made a grievous error last Friday in recommending the release of the man who murdered my father," Kennedy wrote in the emailed statement released Sunday. "I understand that there are differing views about ending the sentence of this killer, including within my own family. But emotions and opinions do not change facts or history."

The board on Friday found that Sirhan Sirhan, 77, no longer poses a threat to society, noting that he had enrolled in more than 20 programs including anger management classes, Tai Chi and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

The ruling will be reviewed over the next four months by the board's staff. Then it will be sent to the governor, who will have 30 days to decide whether to grant it, reverse it or modify it.

"I hope the full parole board will reverse the decision over the ongoing review period and that the Cali-



This Aug. 28, 2009 file photo shows former Massachusetts U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II speaking at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, in Boston.

fornia governor, if faced with the choice to release him, will keep him in prison to serve out his full life sentence," Kennedy wrote.

Robert F. Kennedy was a U.S. senator from New York and the brother of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963. RFK was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination when he was gunned down at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after delivering a victory speech in the piv-

otal California primary. Five others were wounded.

Joe Kennedy II is one of RFK and Ethel Kennedy's 11 children, nine of whom are still alive. Two of them, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Douglas Kennedy, said they supported the release of Sirhan.

Joe Kennedy and five of his siblings said Friday they oppose parole and pledged to fight the process every step of the way. He was joined by Courtney Kennedy, Kerry Kennedy, Christo-

pher G. Kennedy, Maxwell T. Kennedy and Rory Kennedy.

Joe Kennedy said Sunday that anyone who kills for political reasons should "know that he will at a minimum spend life in prison without parole."

"The prisoner killed my father because of his support of Israel," Kennedy wrote in a separate statement. "The man was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. Yet he now may walk free, no doubt to the cheers of

those who share his views. Let there be no mistake, the prisoner's release will be celebrated by those who believe that political disagreements can be solved by a gun."

Kennedy, on a more personal note, spoke of growing up without a father.

"The prisoner left a pregnant mother of ten without a husband and soon-to-be 11 children without a father." He added: "We miss him every moment of every day, and struggle to understand why the prisoner should be able to enjoy the golden years of his life when he so viciously stole them from our father."

Sirhan was originally sentenced to death but that has already been reduced to life in prison, Kennedy noted. "My mother, Ethel Kennedy, and my uncle, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, asked that his death sentence be reduced to life imprisonment as a demonstration of mercy. He received that mercy," Kennedy wrote. "No one should have the right to alter the lesser sentence requested by the person most affected by my father's death — his wife, whose last child would never know a father's touch. Nothing written, said or done will ever change that reality." □

Associated Press

Wisconsin governor: \$680K for election probe is 'outrageous'

By SCOTT BAUER

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said Monday that it was "outrageous" that Republicans planned to spend \$680,000 on an investigation into the 2020 election in Wisconsin, accusing Assembly Speaker Robin Vos of "drinking the Kool-Aid" after meeting with former President Donald Trump.

A Republican-controlled Assembly committee gave

approval Monday, on a 5-3 party-line vote, to designating former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman as special counsel to lead the investigation ordered by Vos, assist the Assembly Elections Committee and hire investigators and others as needed.

Vos said on Friday that the contract will allow for spending up to \$680,000 on the probe. That is more than nine times as much as

the original contract with Gableman and the vote comes a week after Vos flew with Trump to a campaign rally in Alabama where the two discussed the Wisconsin investigation. "I think it's outrageous," Evers said of the GOP election probe, saying the money would be wasted.

"Things changed a bit when Robin Vos went down and visited Donald Trump and got that nice picture on the plane," Evers said. "Apparently they're all drinking the Kool-Aid. But I think it was really, really unfortunate. What it tells me is that this is going to be wide-ranging and probably \$680,000 at a minimum and they're going to be coming up with all



Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said that it was "outrageous" that Republicans planned to spend \$680,000 on an investigation into the 2020 election in Wisconsin on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, during a Democratic Party bus tour that stopped outside the state Capitol in Madison, Wisc.

Associated Press

kinds of things that frankly aren't true." □

Stop The Presses

In observance of Press Day, on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021, the Aruba Today and Bon Dia newspapers will not be published. We will be back at stores and stands again on Friday, September 3rd, 2021.

Thousands rush to flee Lake Tahoe resort city as fire nears

By **SAM METZ and JANIE HAR**

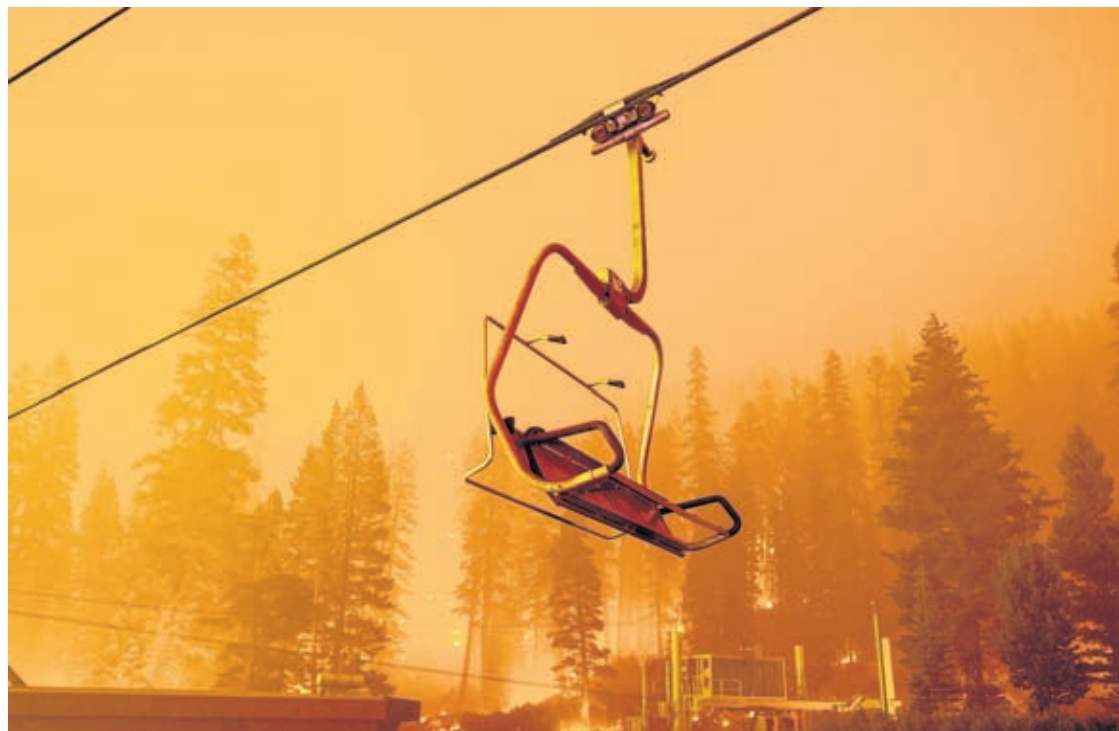
Associated Press/Report for America

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of people rushed to leave South Lake Tahoe as the entire resort city came under evacuation orders and wildfire raced toward Lake Tahoe, a large freshwater lake straddling California and Nevada.

Evacuation warnings issued for the city of 22,000 on Sunday turned into orders Monday. Vehicles loaded with bikes and camping gear and hauling boats were stuck in traffic, stalled in hazy, brown air that smelled of campfire. Police and other emergency vehicles whizzed by.

"This is a systematic evacuation, one neighborhood at a time," South Lake Tahoe police Lt. Travis Cabral said on social media. "I am asking you as our community to please remain calm." The new orders came a day after communities several miles south of the lake were abruptly ordered evacuated as the Caldor Fire raged nearby.

South Lake Tahoe's main medical facility, Barton Memorial Hospital, proactively evacuated 36 patients needing skilled nursing and 16 in acute care beds Sunday, sending them to regional facilities far from the fire, public information officer Mindi Befu said. The rest



Seen in a long camera exposure, the Caldor Fire burns as a chairlift sits motionless at the Sierra-at-Tahoe ski resort on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, in Eldorado National Forest, Calif.

Associated Press

of the hospital was evacuating following Monday's expanded orders.

The Lake Tahoe area in the Sierra Nevada mountains is a recreational paradise for San Francisco Bay Area locals looking for a weekend getaway, as well as a national destination. The area offers beaches, water sports, hiking, ski resorts and golfing.

South Lake Tahoe, at the lake's southern end, bustles with outdoor activities, with casinos available in bordering Stateline, Nevada.

South Lake Tahoe Mayor Tamara Wallace prepared to leave with her husband, youngest child, dogs and

items given to them from their deceased parent — objects that can't be replaced.

She thought the Caldor Fire would stay farther away. Fires in the past did not spread so rapidly near the tourist city.

"It's just yet another example of how wildfires have changed over the years," she said. "It's just a culmination of 14 to 18 more years of dead trees, the droughts we've had since then, those kinds of things."

The region faces a warning from the National Weather Service about critical fire weather Monday and Tuesday.

The fire destroyed multiple homes Sunday along Highway 50, one of the main routes to the lake's south end. It also roared through the Sierra-at-Tahoe ski resort, demolishing some buildings but leaving the main buildings at the base intact.

Fire churned through mountains just a few miles southwest of the Tahoe Basin, where thick smoke sent visitors packing at a time when summer vacations would usually be in full swing ahead of Labor Day weekend.

There were reports of cabins burned in the unincorporated community of Echo

Lake, where Tom Fashinell has operated Echo Chalet with his wife since 1984. The summer-only resort offers cabin rentals, but was ordered to close early for the season by the U.S. Forest Service due to ongoing wildfires.

Fashinell said he was glued to the local TV news. "We're watching to see whether the building survives," he said.

The last major blaze in the area took South Lake Tahoe by surprise after blowing up from an illegal campfire in the summer of 2007. The Angora Fire burned less than 5 square miles (13 square kilometers) but destroyed 254 homes, injured three people and forced 2,000 people to flee.

The Caldor Fire has scorched 277 square miles (717 square kilometers) since breaking out Aug. 14. After the weekend's fierce burning, containment dropped from 19% to 14%. More than 600 structures have been destroyed, and at least 20,000 more were threatened.

It's among nearly 90 large blazes in the U.S. Many are in the West, burning trees and brush sucked dry by drought. Climate change has made the region warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make the weather more extreme and wildfires more destructive, according to scientists. □

Ida topples New Orleans jazz landmark where Armstrong worked



A collapsed historical building is seen on S. Rampart St. in New Orleans, La., early Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A site where a young Louis Armstrong once worked

toppled when Ida blew through Louisiana as one of the most powerful hurricanes to ever hit the U.S.

The Karnofsky Tailor Shop, where a Jewish family employed Armstrong, collapsed Sunday during the storm. Armstrong would play a small tin horn as he worked on the coal and junk wagons, according to the National Park Service.

The business opened downtown in 1913 and had a residence above it where the late jazz legend would often eat meals. The family, who provided Armstrong a "second home," lent him

money to buy his first cornet.

"Louis said it was the Karnofskys that instilled the love of singing in his heart," jazz historian and retired photojournalist John McCusker said, according to WWL-TV. Morris Karnofsky, the family's son and Armstrong's childhood friend, opened the city's first jazz record shop on that same street, according to the park service. Armstrong would visit Morris Music when he returned to New Orleans after moving away.

A cluster of other sites that were integral to jazz's early

history in the city were also situated on South Rampart Street.

In 2019, a real estate firm that specializes in historic preservation was under contract to restore a part of the block that included the Karnofsky shop, The Times Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. The company's CEO floated the idea of repurposing the building as a nightclub or jazz lounge.

But when daylight came Monday morning, all that was left was a pile of bricks and other remnants of the historic site. □

EU takes U.S. off safe travel list; backs travel restrictions

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union recommended Monday that its 27 nations reinstate restrictions on tourists from the U.S. because of rising coronavirus infections there.

The decision by the European Council to remove the U.S. from a safe list of countries for nonessential travel reverses advice that it gave in June, when the bloc recommended lifting restrictions on U.S. travelers before the summer tourism season.

The guidance is nonbinding, however, and U.S. travelers should expect a mish-mash of travel rules across the continent.

"Nonessential travel to the EU from countries or entities not listed (...) is subject to temporary travel restriction," the council said in a statement. "This is without prejudice to the possibility for member states to lift the temporary restriction on nonessential travel to the EU for fully vaccinated travelers."

The EU also removed Israel, Kosovo, Lebanon, Monte-



In this Friday, July 16, 2021 file photo, visitors enjoy the view from top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Associated Press

negro and North Macedonia from the list.

The EU has no unified COVID-19 tourism policy and national EU governments have the authority to decide whether they keep their borders open to U.S. tourists. Possible restrictions could include quarantines, further testing requirements upon arrival or even a to-

tal ban on all nonessential travel from the U.S.

More than 15 million Americans a year visited Europe before the coronavirus crisis, and new travel restrictions could cost Europe billions.

The recommendation doesn't apply to Britain, which formally left the EU at the beginning of the year

and opened its borders to fully vaccinated travelers from the U.S. earlier this month.

The United States remains on Britain's "amber" travel list, meaning that fully vaccinated adults arriving from the U.S. to the U.K. don't have to self-isolate. A COVID-19 test is required three days before arrival in the

U.K. and another test is needed two days after arriving.

Meanwhile, the United States has yet to reopen its own borders to EU tourists, despite calls from the bloc for the Biden administration to lift its ban. Adalbert Jahnz, the European Commission spokesperson for home affairs, said Monday that the EU's executive arm remained in discussions with the U.S. administration as both sides have so far failed to find a reciprocal approach.

In addition to the epidemiological criteria used to determine the countries for which restrictions should be lifted, the European Council said that "reciprocity should also be taken into account on a case by case basis."

The European Council updates the safe travel list based on criteria relating to coronavirus infection levels. It gets reviewed every two weeks. The threshold for being on the EU list is having not more than 75 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants over the last 14 days. □

IAEA: N Korea appears to have resumed nuke reactor operation

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea appears to have restarted the operation of its main nuclear reactor used to produce weapons fuels, the U.N. atomic agency said, as the North openly threatens to enlarge its nuclear arsenal amid long-dormant nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

The annual report by the International Atomic Energy Agency refers to a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang. The reactor produces plutonium, one of the two key ingredients used to build nuclear weapons along with highly enriched uranium.

"Since early July 2021, there have been indications, including the discharge of cooling water, consistent

with the operation of the reactor," said the IAEA report dated Friday.

The report said there were indications of the operation of Yongbyon's radiochemical laboratory from mid-February to early July this year. It said this period of operation is consistent with previous reprocessing campaigns announced by North Korea of irradiated fuel discharged from the reactor. The laboratory is a facility where plutonium is extracted by reprocessing spent fuel rods removed from reactors.

"(North Korea's) nuclear activities continue to be a cause for serious concern. Furthermore, the new indications of the operation of the 5-megawatt reactor and the radiochemical laboratory are deeply troubling," the IAEA said.

The IAEA has not had access to Yongbyon or other

locations in North Korea since the country kicked out IAEA inspectors in 2009. The agency said it uses satellite imagery and open source information to monitor developments in North Korea's nuclear program. The Yongbyon complex also produces highly enriched uranium, the other key nuclear fuel. The IAEA report said "there were indications, for a period of time, that the reported centrifuge enrichment facility was not in operation" though regular vehicular movements were observed.

The complex, which North Korea calls "the heart" of its nuclear program and research, has been at the center of international concerns for decades. It's not clear exactly how much weapons-grade plutonium or highly enriched uranium has been produced



People watch a TV screen showing a file image of a North Korean missile in a military parade during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

Associated Press

at Yongbyon and where North Korea stores it.

In early 2019, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered to dismantle the entire complex if he won extensive sanctions relief during a summit with then-President Donald Trump. But the Americans rejected Kim's offer because it would only

be a partial surrender of his nuclear capability.

North Korea is believed to be running multiple other covert uranium enrichment facilities. According to a South Korean estimate in 2018, North Korea might already have manufactured 20-60 nuclear weapons as well. □

Cladding questions arise in Milan's 20-story building blaze

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italian fire-fighters tackled hot spots Monday in a 20-story apartment building in Milan that was destroyed by fire but said there were no indications that anyone was missing inside, as questions arose about the cladding that witnesses said rapidly fueled the fire.

Some cases of smoke inhalation were reported from Sunday's blaze, but no serious injuries or deaths.

The fire that sent up a huge plume of black smoke visible for kilometers (miles) recalled the deadly fire that swept through Grenfell Tower in London in 2017, killing 72 people. In that case, the cladding on the outside of that building was blamed for the speed at which the fire engulfed the block, and officials noted similar issues in the Milan fire.

"I have never seen a situation like this," said firefighting official Giuliano Santagata.



Smoke billows from a building in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021. Firefighters were battling a blaze on Sunday that spread rapidly through a recently restructured 60-meter-high, 16-story residential building in Milan.

Associated Press

"Just look at the facade and you see that everything is completely burned, and therefore presume that it was made of flammable material."

Santagata said the blaze was under control, al-

though there were still outbreaks in some apartments that were being systematically put out.

Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala said it was "unacceptable" that a building just over a decade old showed itself

to be so vulnerable.

"What seems already clear from the start is that the external cladding of the building went up in flames far too quickly, in a dynamic that recalls the Grenfell Tower in London," Sala said

Monday.

Experts said the lack of victims was due both to fire-fighters' speedy response and door-to-door searches as well as to building codes that included firewalls and an ample stairwell.

The fire spread quickly along a cladding that was shaped like a sail, which was both an aesthetic choice and served to screen the balconies.

After the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Italy drafted new rules, with input from fire-fighters, for claddings of buildings but they have not yet been formally adopted, said Angelo Lucchini, a professor of technical architecture at Milan's Polytechnic University.

The rules don't single out any product in particular, such as the one used in Grenfell Tower, but specify how to prevent the spreading of the flames along the facade.

Lucchini said the use of flammable materials themselves per se is not necessarily a danger. □

Hundreds of Gazans protest blockade along Israeli frontier



In this Friday, Aug. 27, 2021 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett speaks as he meets with President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington.

Associated Press

By WAFEE SHURFA
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinians gathered Sunday night along the separation fence with Israel, setting fires on fire and throwing explosives as Gaza's Hamas rulers pressed ahead with a campaign aimed at pressuring Israel to ease a stifling blockade of the territory.

One protester was moderately wounded by Israeli gunfire.

It was the second consecutive nighttime border protest and took place hours after Israeli warplanes carried out a series of airstrikes on alleged Hamas targets in response to the unrest. Hamas officials have promised to hold nightly protests all week.

"The Zionist occupation bears all the repercussions and consequences of the tightening of the siege on Gaza and the escalation of the humanitarian crisis among its residents," said Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum. "No calm or stability will be achieved as long as our people lack a free and dignified life."

The Israeli military said protesters set fires on fire and lobbed explosives toward Israeli troops, and that its forces took unspecified measures to disperse the crowd. The Palestinian Health Ministry said one protester was shot and suffered moderate wounds. No further details were immediately available.

Israel, with Egypt's help, has maintained a tight blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized control of the territory in 2007, a year after winning a Palestinian election. Israel says the closure, which tightly restricts the movement of goods and

people in and out of Gaza, is needed to prevent Hamas from building up its military capabilities. Critics say the closure, which has devastated the economy, amounts to collective punishment.

Israel has tightened the blockade since an 11-day war against Hamas in May while Egypt tries to broker a long-term cease-fire. Israel has demanded that Hamas return the remains of two dead soldiers and release two captive Israeli civilians in exchange for easing the blockade.

Hamas has grown increasingly angry over the lack of progress in the cease-fire talks. Its operatives have launched a series of incendiary balloons across the border in recent weeks, sparking a series of wildfires in southern Israel.

Hamas also has allowed a number of violent demonstrations along the border. Two Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy and a

Hamas militant, have been killed from Israeli gunfire, while an Israeli soldier was critically wounded when a militant shot him in the head at point-blank range during one of the protests.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, speaking before returning to Israel from Washington, said the pressure on Hamas would continue.

"We will operate in Gaza according to our interests," he said in Hebrew on the tarmac.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies that have fought four wars since Hamas took power, most recently in May.

At least 260 Palestinians were killed during May's Hamas-Israel war, including 67 children and 39 women, according to the Gaza health ministry. Hamas has acknowledged the deaths of 80 militants. Twelve civilians, including two children, were killed in Israel, along with one soldier. q

U.S. airlifts aid to Haiti to reach areas hardest hit by quake

By BEN FOX

JEREMIE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. military aircraft are now ferrying food, tarps and other material into southern Haiti amid a shift in the international relief effort to focus on helping people in the areas hardest hit by the recent earthquake to make it through the hurricane season.

Aircraft flying out of the capital, Port-au-Prince, arrived throughout the day Saturday in the mostly rural, mountainous southern peninsula that was the epicenter of the Aug. 14 earthquake. In Jeremie, people waved and cheered as a Marine Corps unit from North Carolina descended in a tilt-rotor Osprey with pallets of rice, tarps and other supplies.

Most of the supplies, however, were not destined for Jeremie. They were for distribution to remote mountain communities where landslides destroyed homes and the small plots of the many subsistence farmers in the area, said Patrick Tiné of Haiti Bible Mission, one of several groups coordinating the delivery of aid.

"They lost their gardens, they lost their animals," Tiné said as he took a break from helping unload boxes of rice. "The mountains slid down and they lost everything."

At the request of the Haitian government, getting as much help to such people as fast as possible is now the focus of the \$32 million U.S. relief effort, said Tim Callaghan, a disaster



A VM-22 Osprey, with a load of aid lands, at Jeremie Airport, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, in Jeremie, Haiti.

response team leader for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In the immediate aftermath of the magnitude 7.2 earthquake, which killed more than 2,200 people and damaged or destroyed more than 100,000 homes, the focus was on search and rescue.

That was complicated by heavy rain from Tropical Storm Grace as well as earthquake damage to roads and bridges, in an area where the infrastructure was in bad shape to begin with. The threat of gangs, in a country still reeling from the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moise, also made it hard to distribute aid. As a result, many Haitians had grown

increasingly impatient with relief efforts.

"We're just trying to get as much material out to the most affected areas as fast as we can. If you do that, then the frustration level goes down," Callaghan said over the roar of helicopters at the Port-au-Prince airport, where U.S. troops and civilian aid workers labored to load aircraft with pallets in the hot sun.

That is where the U.S. military comes into play. Troops under the direction of Miami-based U.S. Southern Command have so far delivered more than 265,000 pounds of relief assistance. Among those troops is the unit from North Carolina, known as the Fighting Grif-

fins and based at the New River Marine Corps Air Station, which allowed Associated Press journalists to come along as they delivered emergency supplies. Two crews took off from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, flew to Port-au-Prince to pick up supplies, and then made multiple

trips across the mountainous southern peninsula to deliver their loads. They stopped only to refuel on board the USS Arlington off the coast of Haiti.

It was an upbeat mission, with the flight crew and pilots helping the Haitian aid workers unload the aircraft, then shaking hands as they said their goodbyes.

One crew, which delivered more than 8,500 pounds of goods on Saturday alone, brought along a Marine of Haitian descent from New York City as their interpreter. "It really means a lot to me to do something like this," said Lance Cpl. Lunel Najac.

The U.S. effort is expected to continue at least for several more weeks, though whether it will be enough to get people through the rest of the hurricane season remains to be seen.

"People need food, water, tents, tarps," said Wilkens Sanon of Mission of Hope Foundation, another of the groups working with the U.S. to channel aid to people who need it most.

"It is very, very bad right now," he said. □

Associated Press

Puerto Rico to limit alcohol sales, gatherings amid pandemic

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico's governor on Monday announced new restrictions to fight a rise in COVID-19 cases, including closing certain private businesses and banning alcohol sales after midnight.

Social activities such as concerts, weddings, birthdays and anniversaries also will be banned during those hours, and people will be

required to wear masks outside if there is a crowd of 50 or more. In addition, elective surgeries that require the use of intensive care units will be prohibited. The measures will be in effect Sept. 2-23 and affect businesses including restaurants and theatres.

"We're on the right track, but there was no alternative," Gov. Pedro Pierluisi said, referring to a recent

spike in cases and deaths blamed largely on the delta variant.

The announcement comes on the same day that people in the U.S. territory are required to start showing proof of vaccination to enter gyms, casinos, beauty salons and other places. In addition, employees at supermarkets are required to show proof of vaccination starting Monday. □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 9 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.



We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscanyresidencearuba.com/en/news>. For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscanyresidencearuba.com. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels

Native Superstition

Episode CXVIII- 119

NOORD — Locals have been influenced by native traditions such as fears that young children, especially newborns be struck by illness, high fever and died. This particular superstition claims that victims were exposed to individuals of "strong eyes" that have the power to look and cause them harm.

People since the beginning of time knew that their children and families were the most precious gift they could receive and that this traditional folk believe has persisted through the years, even though we all call ourselves modern Christians, Muslims, Hindus or Jews. This fear that linger somewhere in our Aruban subconscious dates back generations and that bad luck can strike, unlocking dark power of disaster that affects one's life. For this affliction the locals has their own amulets or contras in the form of a black fist or small red and black seeds hanging from a fine golden bracelet dangling around arms and necks of our native Aruban newborns. In the picture you can

see one abstract representation of "Bonchi Hojada" evil eye seeds or beans in a painting at Etnia Nativa. These beans we call Bonchi Hojada, are from a plant known as *Abrus precatorius*, a poisonous plant which contains one of the most lethal toxins, Abrin, a toxalbumin that inhibits protein synthesis causing cell death. In some countries these seeds are crushed and taken orally for suicidal purpose, while there is no antidote for this poisoning as yet.

Abrus precatorius is a



vine native to India and other tropical and subtropical areas of the world and found growing wild on the island. Since introduction to Florida and the Carib-



bean, it is now commonly found throughout these areas and in the southern United States. It is known by a variety of names, including jequirity bean, rosary pea, and prayer bead, crab's eye, and love bean. The vine has pods with oval seeds and a hard glossy shell. The seeds vary in color, from red, black, orange or white with black and white centers. While all parts of the plant are toxic, the highest concentrations are found in the seeds. Due to their appearance, the seeds are often used for jewelry, beadwork and ornaments. If you believe your seeds are from *Abrus Precatorius*, wrap, label and warn, poisonous do not to touch or eat. Don't leave them lying around to sort another day. The Rosary pea is very aesthetically pleasing, and for this reason it is made into jewelry by various cultures. Unfortunately some jewelry makers have died by pricking their fingers during this process. Yup, the rosary pea is probably the world's most toxic seed. While intact, the seeds are mostly harmless (if I can use that word), but once the outer coating is scratched or the seed is crushed, as little as 0.1–1 µg/kg can kill a human.□

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp 297 592 2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

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Discover enhanced tranquility of Body & Mind at Eforea Spa

"We are excited to offer a mix of timeless and innovative treatments to our guests who perhaps were restricted in travel over the past year and a half and finally take time to vacation, wishing to emerge brighter, feeling renewed, uplifted and refreshed," says Marielle Smeets, Senior Director of Resort Experience.

Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba is proud to introduce Aruba's first Sacred Sound Massage, a meditative experience that combines a full-body massage with vibration sound therapy. The Eforea Astronomy Experience, a nighttime transformational encounter combines star gazing via telescope, followed by a romantic massage under the stars and a bottle of sparkling wine.

The extensive spa menu features the Escape, Essential, and Signature Journeys, highlighting specialty therapies available in the spa's ten beautifully appointed treatment rooms, the outdoor cabana, or the three couples' rooms, with optional use of steam room, sauna, cold plunge pool, full-service salon and state-of-the-art fitness center.

The Escape Journey menu highlights the use of Aruba's indigenous products such as Aruba Aloe, organic Coconut Oil, rum, fruit serum, sea salt, local herbs, and hot lava stones. Escape massages are designed for guests to unwind, even aid in the quality of their sleep. Exfoliation, hydration, and balancing come together in treatments with local Papiamentu names such as Playa Y Lama, translating into Beach & Ocean, and Drumi Dushi, Sleep Sweetly.

The Essential Journey places the focus on body and mind connection, where physical and emotional health are intimately intertwined. The emphasis here is on fitness muscle massages, or stress relief techniques, in light, medium or deep tissue pressure. For the first time in eighteen-months, facials are back at Eforea Spa, including moisturizing and balancing treatments for both men and women. Prenatal and postnatal massages, targeting stress areas, are back and available, upon request.

The Signature Journey pays close attention to often neglected areas of the body, such as Head & Face, Shoulder, Neck & Scalp, or Feet, for ultimate, focused, distress massages.

Furthermore, the spa delivers a complete Hand & Foot menu, including a mud treatment, and Hand & Foot renewal, with many enticing options, such as incorporating the Hypervolt Percussion Device for improved circulation. For those seeking the perfect tan, Coola sunscreen or après-sun application is available.

Several upgrades are introduced in the new menu to enhance massages, facials and body treatments even further, with special Babor ampoule applica-



tions, NuFace red-light therapy Wrinkle Reducer, and Eye Lifter, all innovative micro-current, anti-aging therapies. To bring people together, the dedicated couples' spaces include the open-air beachfront cabana, for an ultimate romantic escape, a friendship retreat, or mother-daughter quality-time. Guests who wish to truly transition into their vacation mode, are invited to try the Head to Toe, a complete cleansing and renewing session.

All spa treatments commence with a Hand Cleansing Wellness Ritual, utilizing Aruba Aloe. Hands are thoroughly sanitized with hand soap, Aloe hand sugar scrub, and hand lotion.

The Japanese-inspired Bamboo relaxation area invites guests to linger longer, setting the tone for ultimate tranquility. Visit Eforea Spa for a much-needed escape and enjoy the added confidence of top safety protocols. All body massages may be performed with gloves upon guest request and face shields are available.

About Eforea Spa:

Eforea Spa is Hilton's refreshing take on a spa experience, dreamed up to delight global guests and deliver a refreshingly unexpected spa experience – a spiritual escape from the increasing hectic day to day. Hilton's Eforea Spa focuses on balance and wellness, where guests can find signature spa journeys waiting for them – the essentials, escape and Men's journeys are core to the Eforea Spa experience, offering a distinctly therapeutic approach & take guests on a "journey of the senses".

Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba offers a special daily Happy Hour between 5-6pm, with a choice of a 10% discount on a treatment or a complimentary add on to a treatment.

To book your next treatment at Eforea Spa, call +297-526-6052 or email at auahh_eforea_aruba@hilton.com

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Do video games level up kids' money skills?

By **KIMBERLY PALMER** of NerdWallet

Every few days, my 8-year-old son, Neal, asks if he can "earn something" on Roblox, a popular online video game platform. That's his way of suggesting I buy him Robux, the platform's currency, in exchange for him doing a chore or extra academic assignment.

While I usually decline these requests, his persistence made me wonder if the games are teaching him some personal finance lessons, such as how to budget a scarce resource — Robux — and whether his practice in this virtual world could help him navigate the real one. Will he be less likely to squander actual dollars if he's already practiced stretching his Robux budget?

Some experts answer with an emphatic "yes." Mark Mazzu is a former banker and stockbroker who teaches at the online educational platform Outschool. He uses Minecraft, another popular video game, to help kids learn about economics.

"You see them trade naturally; they get that. Negotiating, trading, buying, selling — it's fantastic," he says. But financial literacy experts also say that whether kids really pick up money lessons through video games depends largely on how parents talk with them about their online experience. Here are four conversations to have to help



In this Aug. 28, 2019 file photo Thomas Satterfield, 8, plays Minecraft as his family hangs out at their home in Kokomo, Ind.

your video-game-loving kids develop real money skills.

HOW TO BUILD A FINANCIAL SAFETY NET

In his online classes, Mazzu raises the issue of how to keep money safe with his students. "I ask them, 'What does a bank do?' and transition into a Minecraft discussion. 'How do you keep your things safe inside of Minecraft?'" In the game, players use chests, for example, which keeps valuable items safe — much like a bank account does. That can lead to a discussion about saving money. Mazzu suggests framing it in a relatable way: "If you go

and get 64 pieces of coal or cobblestone, you don't want to use all of the stuff you find. You want to put it away. Why don't you put 10% away in a chest and use the rest?" Mazzu says. "It's a great way to teach kids how to save," he adds.

THE REWARDS AND CHALLENGES OF BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR

Laura Vanderkam, author of "Off the Clock" and mother of five children under 15, says her kids picked up money lessons from the Roblox game Theme Park Tycoon, where players build and run an amusement park.

"There are a lot of actual

business allocation decisions that are not the sort of thing kids would get the chance to do in real life, unless you're running a serious lemonade stand," Vanderkam says.

She says parents can drive home those lessons by asking their kids about the games and drawing real-world parallels.

"People get obsessed with the negative aspects of screen time, but there are a lot of cool lessons to be learned," Vanderkam says.

THE VALUE OF MONEY

Susan Beacham, CEO and founder of Money Savvy Generation, a financial education company,

warns that video games often emphasize superficial purchases, like virtual decorations or dressing an avatar. However, she says that they can also offer parents a way to broach the uncomfortable topic of money with their kids.

Parents can bring up games' shortcomings, such as currency that can only be spent, not invested, donated or saved in an interest-bearing account, for example. "If you want them to learn a lesson, you have to talk with them about it," she says. Beacham also suggests having kids earn money or use their allowance to buy virtual currency for game-playing.

"Kids will take your money all day long. You have to create scarcity and make them face a choice. When they spend their own money, it's different," she says. Then, she suggests following up afterward and asking if they think the cost was worth the benefit. "Now you're teaching your child about money and value."

HOW TO BUDGET AND MAKE TRADE-OFFS

Jeff Haynes, senior editor of web and video games at Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that promotes safe technology and media for children and families, says the money lessons can start even before the game is played. Kids have to consider how much games cost and why they prefer one game to another. □

Amazon teams with Affirm to offer buy-now-pay-later option

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Amazon is teaming with payments company Affirm to offer online shoppers a buy-now-pay-later option that does not involve credit cards.

San Francisco-based Affirm Holdings Inc. announced Friday that its flexible payment service will soon be available on Amazon.com. The news sent Affirm's stock up more than 35% in after-hours trading.

With the service, Amazon customers can split the total cost of purchases of \$50 or more into monthly payments, and are told the total cost of the transaction up front. Affirm said there are no late fees.

Affirm said the two companies are testing the service with a group of customers and that it will be more broadly available in coming months.

Earlier this month, digi-

tal payments company Square Inc. acquired Afterpay, which provides a buy-now-pay-later option for merchants.

Installment plans are popular with retailers because they encourage customers to spend more money. And they enable customers with insufficient funds or credit at the time of purchase to walk out of a store — or check out online — with the item they want. □



This Sept. 6, 2012, file photo shows the Amazon logo in Santa Monica, Calif. Amazon is teaming with payments company Affirm to offer online shoppers a buy-now-pay-later option that does not involve credit cards.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Social blunder
- 6 Jeweler's unit
- 11 Stellar hunter
- 12 Find darling
- 13 Ruler's ascent
- 15 Have lunch
- 16 Tire track
- 17 — Francisco
- 18 Admit
- 20 Bulldogs fan
- 23 Easy wins
- 27 Obsessed captain
- 28 Castle circler
- 29 Book makeup
- 31 Light brown
- 32 Sensational
- 34 Braying beast
- 37 Storage site
- 38 Poker prize
- 41 Return like an old satellite
- 44 Disney's mermaid
- 45 Justice Samuel
- 46 Crest
- 47 Strictness

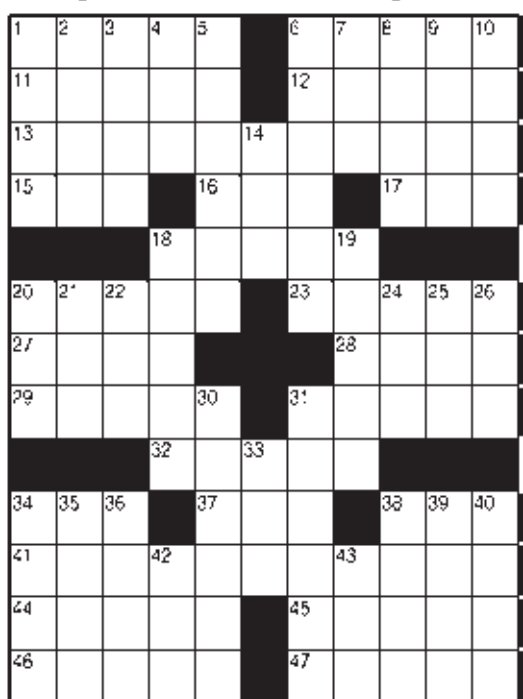
DOWN

- 1 Candidate of 2000
- 2 Opera solo
- 3 Boxing weapon
- 4 Opponent
- 5 Main dish
- 6 Ransom demander
- 7 Hoopla
- 8 Bleachers features
- 9 Open space
- 10 Ocean bird
- 14 Ump's call
- 18 Defamatory text
- 19 Wanderer
- 20 Puppy sound
- 21 Cry of insight



Yesterday's answer

- 22 Fall behind
- 24 Do a yard job
- 25 Piper of myth
- 26 Pig's place
- 30 None too obvious
- 31 Lack of musical skill
- 33 2016 Olympics host
- 34 At a distance
- 35 Rani's gown
- 36 Glided
- 38 Prudish person
- 39 Director Preminger
- 40 Hammer wielder
- 42 Table part
- 43 Boxing great



8-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

LW LR LCOARRLDNS TAU HAJ
WA MA AB ZR HAJ VSUS
DSTAUS, RA HAJ CIRW MA AB
ZR HAJ BSFSU GZFS.

PGSUHN RWUZHSE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE CONTEMPLATION OF BEAUTY CAUSES THE SOUL TO GROW WINGS.
— PLATO

EXPLAINER: Ida similar to Katrina, but stronger, smaller

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Science Writer

Hurricane Ida is looking eerily like a dangerous and perhaps scarier sequel to 2005's Hurricane Katrina, the costliest storm in American history. But there's a few still-to-come twists that could make Ida nastier in some ways, but not quite as horrific in others.

"The main story with Katrina was storm surge damage, and over a vast area. The main story with Ida will be a combination of wind, storm surge, and fresh water flooding damage," said meteorologist Jeff Masters, who flew hurricane missions for the government and founded Weather Underground.

Ida made landfall on the same calendar date, Aug. 29, as Katrina did 16 years ago, striking the same general part of Louisiana with about the same wind speed, after rapidly strengthening by going over a similar patch of deep warm water that supercharges hurricanes. What could be different is crucial though: direction, size and strength.

"Ida will most definitely be stronger than Katrina, and by a pretty big margin," said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. "And, the worst of the storm will pass over New Orleans and Baton Rouge, which got the weaker side of Katrina."

Ida was a strong Category 4 storm with 150 mph (241 kph) winds when it made landfall, "a sneeze away from becoming the fifth Category 5 landfall on the continental U.S.," McNoldy said.

Katrina weakened quite a bit before landfall, striking Louisiana as a Category 3 storm with 127 mph (204 kph) winds.

Katrina hit Louisiana from due south, while Ida is coming to the same part of the state from southeast. On Sunday, Ida's hurricane-force winds extended 37 miles (about 60 kilometers) from the center, compared to Katrina's hurricane-force



In this Aug. 30, 2005 file photo, Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina fill the streets near downtown New Orleans.

Associated Press

winds that spread 98 miles (158 kilometers) from the center when it made landfall, McNoldy said.

"This has the potential to be more of a natural disaster whereas the big issue in Katrina was more of a man-made one" because of levee failures, said McNoldy. Levee failures pushed Katrina's death toll to 1,833 and its overall damage to about \$176 billion in current dollars, and experts don't expect Ida to come near those totals.

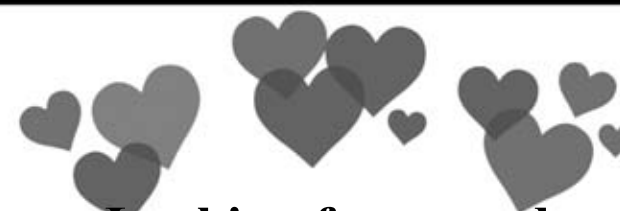
DIFFERENT DIRECTION

Ida came to the same general place from a slightly different direction. Several hurricane experts fear that difference in angle may put New Orleans more in the dangerous storm quadrant — the right front part of a hurricane — than it was in

Katrina, when the city was more devastated by levee failure than storm surge. Katrina's northeast quadrant pushed 28-foot (8.5-meter) storm surges in Mississippi not New Orleans.

Ida's "angle is potentially even worse," McNoldy said. Because it is smaller "it's not going to as easily create a huge storm surge ... but the angle that this is coming in, I think is more conducive to pushing water into the lake (Pontchartrain)."

That northwestern path of Ida not only puts New Orleans more in the bullseye than it did in Katrina, but it also more targets Baton Rouge and crucial industrial areas, Masters said. He said Ida is forecast to move through "the just absolute worst place for a hurricane." □



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U.N. hails end of poisonous leaded gas use in cars worldwide

By FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Leaded gaso-
line has finally reached the
end of the road, the U.N. en-
vironment office said Mon-
day, after the last country in
the world halted the sale of
the highly toxic fuel. Algeria
stopped providing leaded
gas last month, prompt-
ing the U.N. Environment
Agency to declare the "of-
ficial end" of its use in cars,
which has been blamed
for a wide range of human
health problems."The suc-
cessful enforcement of the
ban on leaded petrol is a
huge milestone for global
health and our environ-
ment," UNEP's executive di-
rector, Inger Andersen, said
in a statement. □



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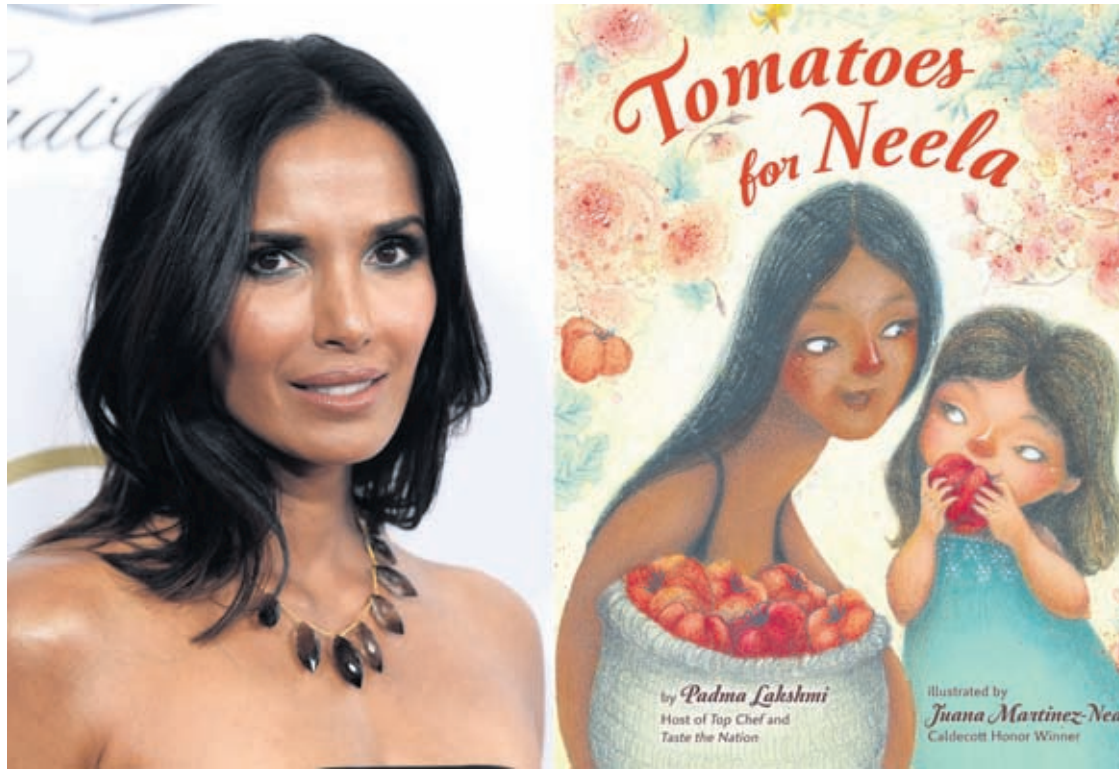
Padma Lakshmi cooks up a children's book with a message

NEW YORK (AP) — Neela is a young girl who loves cooking with her mom. Saturday is her favorite day of the week. That's the day they go to the green market.

So begins Padma Lakshmi's charming entry into the world of children's book, "Tomatoes For Neela," which mixes the author's memories of family cooking with practical food advice, a nod to farmworkers and even a pair of recipes.

"It is just a very small personal story that centers around a young single mother who also is a recipe writer like me," says Lakshmi, the host of Bravo's "Top Chef" and "Taste the Nation" on Hulu. "It's just really about teaching children how to cook from an early age, respecting Mother Nature and eating when things are in season."

Neela and her mom make a sauce using tomatoes bought from the green market and create enough to jar some for winter, saving it to share with grandmother when she next visits from India. In the meantime, the grandmother gazes down from framed photos, present in spirit. Neela carefully writes down all the recipes. There's also a lesson in to-



Padma Lakshmi appears at the Producers Guild Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Jan. 19, 2019, left, and cover art for "Tomatoes for Neela," a children's book written by Lakshmi, with illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal.

Associated Press

mato history, with Neela discussing the fruit's origin in Latin America and that some cultures actually feared them. She learns that different types — like heirlooms or cherry — are good for various dishes. She uses plum tomatoes to make her sauce because they have less seeds.

"Through food, my grandmother and my mother taught me so much about

life and culture and being a person in the world. And so I'm hoping that, through this book, I can encourage families to actively cook together, to value the recipes that they've been making for their family get together and also to remember all of the different people who bring us our food and to be mindful of our environment," says Lakshmi.

The words are brought to

life with beautiful artwork by Juana Martinez-Neal, who was awarded a Caldecott Honor for "Alma and How She Got Her Name." Lakshmi shared an online folder of family photos to help make Neela and her mom resemble the author and her daughter, while Martinez-Neal tapped into her own memories of going to markets in Peru for fresh produce to recreate a bus-

ling green market.

Her images are full of life and textures and movement, giving the reader a sense of a busy kitchen full of love, with warm smells and mom's bangles creating a gentle rhythm as she slices.

"It could feel like something very flat and two dimensional, but we tried to bring it to a full, sensory experience — we have sound, we have taste. We have the feel of everything," says Martinez-Neal.

The idea of adding farmworkers to the book came from a suggestion by Martinez-Neal. "It's so easy to forget who is doing that work," she says. Lakshmi loved the idea and added context and reference material about farmworkers at the end of the book.

"We often don't consider the many hands that have an impact on our diets, on our daily lives. And what the pandemic has shown us is how valuable everyone in the food chain is and how they should be valued," says Lakshmi.

The germ of the book was triggered when Lakshmi's real-life daughter, Krishna, came home several years ago craving a pomegranate. □

Arc de Triomphe to be wrapped for posthumous work by Christo



Cranes operate at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021.

Associated Press

By **JEFFREY SCHAEFFER**

PARIS (AP) — The Arc de Triomphe has seen parades, protests and tourists galore, but never before has the war monument in Paris been wrapped in silver and blue recyclable polypro-

pylene fabric. That's about to happen next month in a posthumous art installation designed by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

"Christo has wrapped museums, parliaments as in Germany, but a monu-

ment like this? Not really. This is the first time. This is the first monument of this importance and scale that he has done," Vladimir Yavachev, the late collaborating couple's nephew, told The Associated Press. Preparations have already started on the Napoleonic arch, where workers are covering statues to protect them from the wrapping.

The idea for "L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped," was formed in 1961, when Christo and Jeanne-Claude lived in Paris. Jeanne-Claude died in 2009, and in spite of Christo's death in May 2020, the project carried on.

"He wanted to complete this project. He made us promise him that we will

do it," Yavachev told The Associated Press.

It was to be realized last fall, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the installation.

The 14 million-euro (\$16.4 million) project is being self-financed through the sale of Christo's preparatory studies, drawings, scale models, and other pieces of work, Yavachev said.

Visitors to the foot of the Arc de Triomphe during the installation, scheduled for Sept. 18 to Oct. 3, will be able to touch the fabric, and those climbing to the top will step on it when they reach the roof terrace, as intended by the artists.

Born in Bulgaria in 1935, Christo Vladimirov Javacheff met Jeanne-

Claude Denat de Guillebon, born in Morocco on the exact same day as him, in Paris in 1958.

The artists were known for elaborate, temporary creations that involved blanketing familiar public places with fabric, such as Berlin's Reichstag and Paris' Pont Neuf bridge, and creating giant site-specific installations, such as a series of 7,503 gates in New York City's Central Park and the 24.5-mile "Running Fence" in California.

Yavachev plans on completing another one of his uncle and aunt's unfinished projects: a 150-meter-tall (492 feet) pyramid-like mastaba in Abu Dhabi. "We have the blueprints, we just have to do it," he said. □

Halep, Muguruza win; fans face delays in return to US Open

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Simona Halep and Garbiñe Muguruza, a pair of two-time Grand Slam champions who have had their difficulties in New York, pulled out tough two-set victories on Monday in the opening round of the U.S. Open.

Sloane Stephens then had one even tougher, needing 2 hours, 10 minutes to edge Madison Keys 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7) in a rematch of her victory in the 2017 final. Arthur Ashe Stadium was far from filled for the start of that match, possibly because fans faced delays entering the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on the day they were allowed to return to the tournament.

Halep, who had consecutive first-round exits in the 2017 and 2018 U.S. Opens, held off Camila Giorgi 6-4, 7-6 (3). She didn't play in last year's fan-less event.

"So for me it was normal to have the people in the stands and the noise that is always in the U.S. Open," Halep said. "I started to like it. I start to embrace these things. I had fun on court, and I liked some people that were screaming in Ro-



Simona Halep, of Romania, returns a shot to Camila Giorgi, of Italy, during the first round of the US Open tennis championships, Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

manian also and in English." Muguruza, the No. 9 seed, advanced with a 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5) victory over Donna Vekic.

Those were two of the earliest victories as the tournament welcomed back spectators after being played last year without fans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The grounds were packed throughout the day and figured to be again at night

when defending women's champion Naomi Osaka played her first-round match.

But spectators complained of delays, which the U.S. Tennis Association said were largely caused by the time it took to inspect their bags.

"Patrons have brought an inordinate number of bags this year, all of which need to be searched," the USTA said in a statement. "This

becomes the main choke point for entry."

The USTA added that it was exploring ways to improve this entry process for the remainder of the tournament, and that the checking for proof of vaccination required for entry this year was going smoothly and was not a major contributor to the delays.

Halep missed the French Open and Wimbledon — the two major tournaments

she has won — with a left calf injury, and her return to Grand Slam tennis came at the one where she's had her least success.

Her loss to Kaia Kanepi in 2018 was the first time the No. 1 seed lost in the first round of the U.S. Open in the professional era. She acknowledged after that defeat that maybe the noise of New York just wasn't her scene, and the sounds were back Monday with the stands again allowed to be filled to full capacity.

"I lost a few times in the first round here, so I got a little bit of the experience from those moments," Halep said. "There is no other way. So I have to accept it. I have to like it and to be part of it."

Long lines and big crowds were a readjustment for any players. Keys had to wait while serving midway through the second set of her match as fans were late returning to their seats after a changeover.

Halep was in some danger again against Giorgi, an Italian who recently won a hard-court title in Montreal for the biggest victory of her career. □

Cantlay takes final automatic spot on U.S. Ryder Cup team

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) —

Patrick Cantlay earned the sixth and final automatic spot on the U.S. Ryder Cup team by winning the BMW Championship on Sunday. All that meant was avoiding a phone call from the captain, Steve Stricker, after the Tour Championship to inform him of being a pick.

Because of the pandemic that delayed the Ryder Cup one year until Sept. 24-26, qualifying began the day Tiger Woods won the 2019 Masters. It ended 28 months later with six players assured a spot at Whistling Straits, and the real drama still a week away.

Collin Morikawa, who won two majors during the qualifying process, topped the list. He was followed by

Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka and Justin Thomas, all of whom had mathematically locked up their spots.

Tony Finau was in the sixth spot until he was surpassed by Cantlay's victory. Cantlay and Morikawa will be making their Ryder Cup debuts.

The U.S. team has six captain's picks this year instead of four, a decision made during the midst of the pandemic and so much uncertainty about the golf schedule.

Cantlay was considered a shoo-in to be picked even if he didn't make the team. Ditto for Finau after he won The Northern Trust last week, and Olympic gold medalist Xander Schauffele and Jordan Spieth. They are the next three in the standings. Harris English, a two-time

winner this year, is No. 10 in the standings.

Stricker will make his picks official after the Tour Championship. Among the candidates are Daniel Berger, Webb Simpson, Scottie Scheffler and Sam Burns, and the curious case of Patrick Reed, who had a big week without even playing at Caves Valley.

Reed, who has a penchant for match play with his marvelous short game and relentless attitude, has been out the last three weeks, first with an ankle injury, then with what he described as bilateral pneumonia.

He faced long odds of being among the top 30 who advance to the Tour Championship, but it worked in his favor.

Of the 10 players behind him in the FedEx Cup standings, only Rory McIlroy



Patrick Cantlay, left, reacts after sinking his putt on the 18th green as Bryson DeChambeau, right, lines up his putt during the final round of the BMW Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Md.

Associated Press

finished among the top 25 at the BMW Championship. And when K.H. Lee made bogey from the middle of the 18th fairway, that allowed Reed to stay at No. 30. That means Reed, if

healthy, gets a chance to play at East Lake in what could amount to an audition for the Ryder Cup.

Europe, meanwhile, still has two more events before its qualifying ends. □

NFL stars coming off injuries eager for prominence in 2021

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Pro Football Writer

Dak Prescott's right shoulder and Carson Wentz's left foot sidelined the Dallas and Indianapolis quarterbacks almost all of training camp when the plan called for a normal ramp-up to their comebacks in the regular season.

Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow, New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, San Francisco defensive end Nick Bosa and Cleveland receiver Odell Beckham Jr. knew they would be limited in the preseason coming off knee injuries that cut short their 2020 seasons.

The rest of the NFL stars seeking redemption had something approaching normal camps, and all of them — limited ones included — are eager to get back to prominent roles after watching and waiting for months.

Just don't expect them to be longing for the Comeback Player of the Year award.

"There were so many guys that were injured, not just with our team but with this league, that whoever gets that, that will be special," Prescott said. "I don't think anybody ... is shooting for that, I guess. I want to be the best player I can be, and if that comes with it, then oh well."

Prescott, whose season ended in Week 5 with a compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle, strained his right shoulder warming up for practice the first week of camp this year. He didn't play in the preseason but should be set for the Sept. 9 opener at Super Bowl winner Tampa Bay and seven-time champ Tom Brady.

Doctors told Wentz the roots of the former Philadelphia QB's foot issue probably went back to high



Denver Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller (58) battles Los Angeles Rams offensive guard Tremayne Anchrum (72) during the first half of an NFL preseason football game, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, in Denver.

school. He had surgery to remove a bone fragment Aug. 2 and returned after three weeks when the initial diagnosis was as many as 12.

After Philip Rivers retired, the Colts traded for Wentz, who struggled in his final season with the Eagles and wanted a fresh start elsewhere. The foot issue might keep him out of the opener Sept. 12.

"Unfortunately, I've been here before with limited reps and had to go play," said Wentz, who injured a knee when he was in the MVP conversation in 2017 and the Eagles went on to win the Super Bowl without him. "I'm excited that

I've been able to do some walk-throughs the last couple of weeks and still be involved. It wasn't one of those injuries where you go rehab and you're away for a while."

Knee injuries ended the 2020 season for Barkley and Bosa in Week 2, Beckham in Week 7 and Burrow in Week 11. Burrow was the only one of the four to play in this preseason — for 90 seconds in the finale Sunday.

"There's a lot of things I have to continue to do because it's truly a nine-month recovery process, minimum," Burrow said in late July, at the 7½-month mark. "There's still a lot of

maintenance I need to do. But I'll just compound that on practices, find places I can get rehab in."

Barkley appears to be the only one with any doubt about being available for the Sept. 12 opener. He still had a non-contact jersey in practice last week.

"I'm going to give y'all the same answer I've been giving you, and it's not like I'm trying to blow smoke or anything like that," said Barkley, the former Penn State star who was drafted second overall in 2018 and was Offensive Rookie of the Year. "To be honest, I don't know."

Bosa wasn't cleared for team drills until the final week of camp, but appears on track to start the season. The 2019 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year helped the 49ers reach the Super Bowl that season, then had 12 pressures of Patrick Mahomes. Kansas City rallied to win in the fourth quarter.

"The biggest thing always coming off of an injury is just the mental hurdle of taking a hit and hitting the ground and getting up and dusting yourself off and understanding that, 'Oh, everything is still intact. I'm still OK,'" defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans said. "I think he got a little bit of that ... with his first day back. I see him just continuing to progress."

Carolina running back Christian McCaffrey followed an All-Pro year in 2019 with a series of injuries that limited him to three games. He was full go from the start of camp but didn't play in the preseason.

"He will take a lot of hits during the season, more so than anyone else out there on the field," coach Matt Rhule said. "So we will save his hits for the season."

New York Jets linebacker C.J. Mosley hasn't played close to a full season since the last of his five with Baltimore in 2018. He was limited to two games with a groin injury in his New York debut two years ago before opting out because of COVID-19 last season.

Mosley has a new coach in Robert Saleh and defensive coordinator in Jeff Ulbrich, so pretty much everything feels new.

"Yeah, 100%, man," Mosley said. "You can never take this game for granted, whether it's the preseason or anything like that."

Star pass rusher Von Miller of Denver sustained a season-ending ankle injury in practice just six days before the opener last year. The 32-year-old, who missed almost half of the 2013 season with a torn ACL, is entering the final year of a \$114.5 million, six-year contract he signed after winning Super Bowl 50 MVP honors.

"It'll definitely be emotional," Miller said when asked about finally getting back in a game. "Whenever you can fight through a season-ending injury like that -- twice, for me -- it's definitely a milestone that you appreciate and look back on."

Plenty of NFL stars will have the same feeling in 2021. □



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